

XX.—*On the Fructification of Polysiphonia parasitica, Grev.*
By the Rev. DAVID LANDSBOROUGH*.

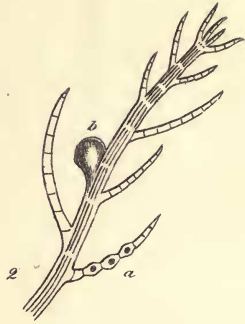
[With a Plate.]

WERE I to be asked by a friend to point out the richest field on our Ayrshire coast for a botanical ramble, I would without hesitation point to Portincross in the parish of West Kilbride. It is however a place of so much beauty and interest, that I would advise my friend to spend an hour at least in enjoying the scene before he enters on his botanical researches.

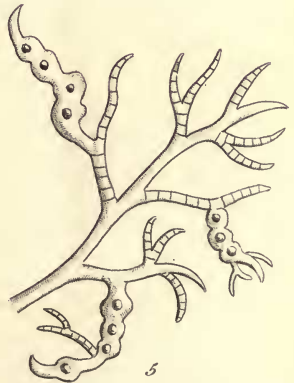
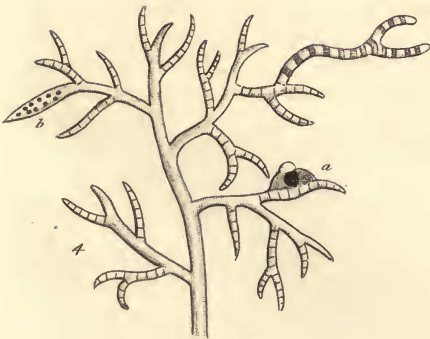
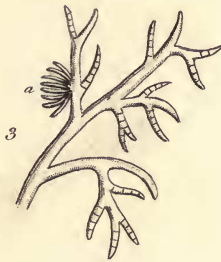
The name of the place carries us back to olden times. It was called Portincross, it is said, from being the harbour from which it was usual to sail, when the body of any of the kings of Scotland was to be carried to Iona, where the remains of so many of our Scottish monarchs were deposited. The ancient castle on the rocky shore carries us back also to a remote age; for though it is of more recent date than the period when Iona was a place of note for learning and religion and royal sepulture, yet it is so antique that we have no sure history of its erection. An ancient cannon, seen at the castle, brings us within the range of historical *memorabilia*, for it was brought up from the deep after the wreck of one of the vessels of the Spanish Armada, when Providence so evidently interposed in behalf of our land. The name of the proprietor of the castle and of the adjoining lands awakens pleasing recollections. *Crawford of Auchenames* sounds well in the ears of every lover of Scottish song, as an ancestor of the present proprietor wrote some of those sweet pastorals which have been rendered still more precious by being married for several generations to some of the sweetest of our Scottish airs.

I shall not attempt to describe the scenery, for that would require a gifted pen to do it any justice. Let our botanist feast his eyes for a little, and then let him enter on his pleasant work. Is he in search of Phænogamous plants? In rambling along the sunny 'banks and braes,' he will not be long in filling his vasculum. Is he a muscologist? There, some half-score years ago, along with Mr. George Gardner, now in Ceylon, and well known in the botanical world, I for the first time met with *Hookeria lucens* and *Neckera crispa*, which though not the rarest are among the most beautiful of our mosses. There, are *muscosi fontes*, and shaded rocks, and veteran stone-dykes, and decaying stumps of trees, favourite habitats of the mossy tribes. And when he has perambulated the sunny *braes*, and explored every pendent cliff and crevice of the rocks, and robbed of its golden garniture every

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Polysiphonia parasitica.



Gloiosiphonia capillaris.

